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(71) Applicant: **Zhejiang Yangtong Automobile Parts  
Co., Ltd.  
Zhejiang (CN)**

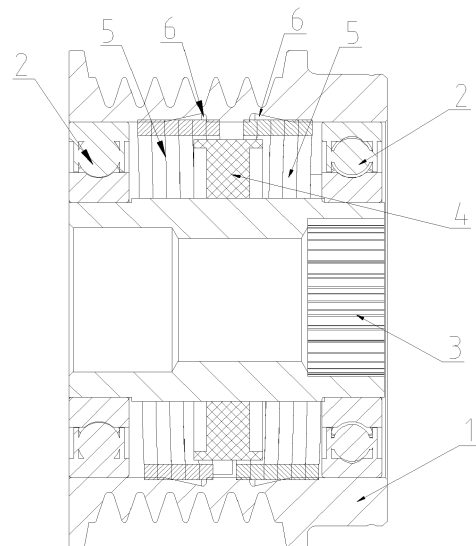
(72) Inventors:  
• **LIU, Zenggang  
Ningbo City (CN)**  
• **WANG, Shiyong  
Ningbo City (CN)**

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(74) Representative: **Lawrence, Richard Anthony et al  
Keltie LLP  
No.1 London Bridge  
London SE1 9BA (GB)**

(54) **OVERRUNNING ALTERNATOR DAMPING PULLEY**

(57) The present patent application discloses an overrunning alternator damping pulley. The overrunning alternator damping pulley includes a pulley body (1), two ball bearings (2) provided on both ends of a shaft hole of the pulley body (1); and a hub (3) for supporting the two ball bearings (2). At least one spring holder (4) is provided on the hub (3). At least one friction spring (5) is installed on the spring holder (4). One end of the friction spring (5) is engaged with the spring holder (4). Another end of the friction spring (5) forms a free end spirally extending along an axial direction of the hub (3). The outer ring of the friction spring (5) is in contact with an inner wall of the pulley body (1). A damping groove (6) corresponding to the friction spring (5) is provided on the inner wall of the pulley body (1).



**Figure 2**

## Description

### Field of the Invention

[0001] The present patent application relates to a belt pulley, and specifically, to an overrunning alternator damping pulley for automotive alternators.

### Background of the Invention

[0002] The running speed of the traditional automotive alternator pulley is synchronized with the car engine. If the speed of the engine changes, the speed of the alternator changes accordingly. The output torque and speed of an internal combustion engine are acyclic due to the explosion of the cylinders. In particular, when the engine is suddenly accelerated or decelerated, the speed of the alternator pulley changes. However, due to the alternator effect inertia rotor, the rotor speed of the alternator is suddenly synchronized with the speed of the engine. The impact will be formed between the belt and the pulley, reducing belt life and producing noise, in a resulting engine Front End Accessory Drive (FEAD). Before the engine is stopped, the engine crankshaft has a short positive and negative direction swing. The excitation coil in the rotor causes damage and reduces the life of the alternator by centrifugal force.

[0003] To improve the life of the engine and FEAD, an improvement is made on the structure of the pulley. Such as, Chinese patent application No. CN200920294667 discloses a Overrunning Alternator Pulley (OAP). The OAP includes a pulley wheel, a pulley shaft, an upper ball bearing and lower ball bearing located between the pulley wheel and the pulley shaft, and a overrunning clutch that is arranged between the upper ball bearing and the lower ball bearing. However, the structure of the above overrunning pulley is complicated. It has only overrunning function but no damping function.

### Summary of the Invention

[0004] It is intended to overcome the above deficiencies and provide an overrunning alternator damping pulley with a simple structure.

[0005] To solve the above technical problem, in one aspect the present patent application provides an overrunning alternator damping pulley. The overrunning alternator damping pulley includes a pulley body, two ball bearings provided on both ends of a shaft hole of the pulley body; and a hub for supporting the two ball bearings. At least one spring holder is provided on the hub. At least one friction spring is installed on the spring holder. One end of the friction spring is inserted to the spring holder. Another end of the friction spring forms a free end spirally extending along an axial direction of the hub. The outer ring of the friction spring is in contact with an inner wall of the pulley body. A damping groove corresponding to the friction spring is provided on the inner wall of the

pulley body.

[0006] The damping groove may have an annular shape. The damping groove may have a variable width according to the damping requirement.

[0007] The damping groove may be provided near an end portion of the spring holder.

[0008] The spring holder may have an arc groove. One end of the friction spring which connects to the spring holder may be clamped in the arc groove.

[0009] Two sides of the spring holder may be engaged with two friction spring respectively. The two friction springs are concentrically set at the two sides of the spring holder with same rotation direction.

[0010] The spring holder may have two arc grooves and a number of the friction spring may be two. Two friction springs may be disposed opposite to each other in two sides of the spring holder correspondingly.

[0011] Two locking blocks may be set on an opposite sides of the hub respectively; two locking grooves corresponding to the two locking blocks may be set in the spring holder, with the locking blocks locked in the locking grooves.

[0012] The locking blocks may be located in the middle of the hub.

[0013] The spring holder and the hub can be separately disposed or integrated.

[0014] Compared with the prior art, the overrunning alternator damping pulley of the present patent application has an extremely simple structure. By expansion and shrink of the outer ring of the friction spring, it can be engaged and disengaged with the pulley body. Thus, it plays a better damping effect. When the rotation speed of the pulley body is higher than that of the hub, the outer ring of the friction spring expands and engages with the pulley body. The hub and the pulley body are combined, so that the hub and the pulley body rotate synchronously and transmit a driving force power. When the rotation speed of the pulley body is lower than that of the hub, the outer ring of the friction spring shrinks. It slips in the inner wall of the pulley body. The hub and the pulley body are disengaged. The hub and the pulley body each rotates, playing a protection and damping effect. In addition, a damping groove is provided on the place where the inner wall and friction spring contacts. The damping groove further provides a damping space for the friction spring, so that it plays a further damping effect at the moment of engaging. Thus, the present patent application provides an overrunning alternator damping pulley with both overrunning and damping functions.

### Brief Description of Drawings

[0015] Specific embodiments of the invention are described below, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

Figure 1 is a schematic structural diagram of the overrunning alternator damping pulley according to

an embodiment of the present patent application;

Figure 2 and Figure 3 are sectional views taken along A-A of Figure 1;

Figure 2 illustrates the assembly of the hub, the spring holder and friction spring;

Figure 3 illustrates the assembly of the part 4 integrating hub and the spring holder with the friction spring; and

Figure 4 illustrates the assembly of the hub and the spring holder.

**[0016]** The embodiments depicted in the figures are only exemplary. One skilled in the art will readily recognize from the following discussion that alternative embodiments of the structures and methods illustrated herein can be employed without departing from the principles described herein.

### Detailed Description of the Invention

**[0017]** The following description is presented to enable a person of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the various embodiments. Descriptions of specific devices, techniques, and applications are provided only as examples. Various modifications to the examples described herein will be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art, and the general principles defined herein may be applied to other examples and applications without departing from the spirit and scope of the present technology. Thus, the disclosed technology is not intended to be limited to the examples described herein and shown, but is to be accorded the scope consistent with the claims.

**[0018]** In the drawings, the following reference numbers are used - 1: pulley body; 2: ball bearing; 3: hub; 31: locking block; 4: spring holder; 41: lock groove; 5: friction spring; 6: damping groove; 7: arc groove.

**[0019]** Referring to Figure 1 and Figure 2, an overrunning alternator damping pulley includes a pulley body 1, two ball bearings 2 and a hub. The two ball bearings 2 are provided on both ends of a shaft hole of the pulley body 1. The hub 3 is used to support the two ball bearings 2. The ball bearings 2 and the pulley body 1 interference fit. At least one spring holder 4 is provided on the hub 3. At least one friction spring 5 is installed on the spring holder 4. One end of the friction spring 5 is connected to the spring holder 4. Another end of the friction spring 5 forms a free end spirally extending along the axial direction of the hub 3. The outer ring of the friction spring 5 is in contact with the inner wall of the pulley body 1.

**[0020]** Thus, by expansion and shrink of the outer ring the friction spring 5, it can be engaged and disengaged with the pulley body 1. It plays a good role in the overrunning clutch. Specifically, when the rotation speed of

the pulley body 1 is higher than that of the hub 3, the outer ring of the friction spring 5 expands and engages with the pulley body 1. The hub 3 and the pulley body 1 are combined, so that the hub 3 and the pulley body 1 rotate synchronously and transmit a driving force power. When the rotation speed of the pulley body 1 is lower than that of the hub 3, the outer ring of the friction spring 5 shrinks. It slips in the shaft hole of the pulley body 1. The hub 3 and the pulley body 1 are disengaged. The hub 3 and the pulley body 1 each rotate, protecting the apparatus and achieving a damping effect.

**[0021]** In one embodiment, a damping groove 6 is provided on the place where the inner wall and friction spring 5 contacts. The damping groove 6 further provides a damping space for the friction spring 5, so that it provides a further damping effect at the moment of engaging.

**[0022]** In the present embodiment, the damping groove 6 is in an annular shape. It has a variable width according to the damping requirement. The damping groove 6 is set at the place near the end portion of the spring holder 4. In the present patent application, one or more friction spring 5 can be set as needed. For more than one friction spring 5, they can be mounted back to back (they are respectively mounted on both sides of the spring holder 4), or they can be mounted parallel to parallel (one friction spring 5 is mounted on one spring holder 4).

**[0023]** Referring to Figure 3, the spring holder 4 and the hub 3 are integrated.

**[0024]** Referring to Figure 4 and 5, in the present embodiment, both sides of the spring holder 4 are inserted to two friction springs 5 respectively. The two friction springs 5 are concentrically set at the two sides of the spring holder 4 with an opposite rotation direction. In particular, both sides of the spring holder 4 are set with an arc groove 7. One end of each friction spring 5 which connects to the spring holder 4 is clamped in the arc groove 7.

**[0025]** Alternatively, the number of the spring holder 4 is two and the number of the friction spring 5 is two. Two friction springs 5 are oppositely disposed in the corresponding spring holder 4.

**[0026]** In this embodiment, two locking blocks 31 are set on the opposite sides of the hub 3 respectively. Two locking grooves 41 corresponding to the two locking blocks 31 are set in the spring holder 4. The locking blocks 31 are locked in the locking grooves 41. The locking blocks 31 are located in the middle of the hub 3. It makes the two friction springs 5 locate at the middle of the hub 3, in order to play the damping role.

**[0027]** As described above, the present patent application discloses an overrunning alternator damping pulley. It has an extremely simple structure. By expansion and shrink of the outer ring the friction spring, it can be engaged and disengaged with the pulley body. Thus, it plays a better damping effect. When the rotation speed of the pulley body is higher than that of the hub, the outer ring of the friction spring expands and engages with the

pulley body. The hub and the pulley body are combined, so that the hub and the pulley body rotate synchronously and transmit a driving force power. When the rotation speed of the pulley body is lower than that of the hub, the outer ring of the friction spring shrinks. It slips in the shaft hole of the pulley body. The hub and the pulley body are disengaged. The hub and the pulley body each rotates, playing a protection and damping effect. In addition, a damping groove is provided on the place where the inner wall and friction spring contacts. The damping groove further provides a damping space for the friction spring, so that it plays a further damping effect at the moment of engaging. Thus, the present patent application provides an overrunning alternator damping pulley with both overrunning and damping functions.

**[0028]** Various exemplary embodiments are described herein. Reference is made to these examples in a non-limiting sense. They are provided to illustrate more broadly applicable aspects of the disclosed technology.

**[0029]** Various changes can be made and equivalents can be substituted without departing from the true spirit and scope of the various embodiments. In addition, many modifications can be made to adapt a particular situation, material, composition of matter, process, process act(s) or step(s) to the objective(s), spirit or scope of the various embodiments. Further, as will be appreciated by those with skill in the art, each of the individual variations described and illustrated herein has discrete components and features which can be readily separated from or combined with the features of any of the other several embodiments without departing from the scope or spirit of the various embodiments.

## Claims

1. An overrunning alternator damping pulley comprising:

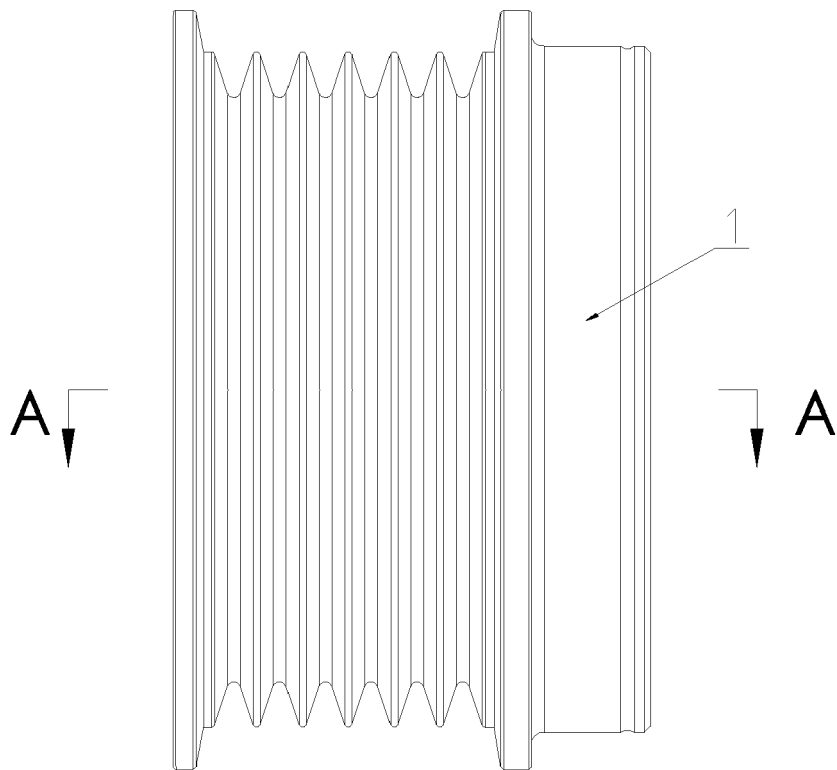
a pulley body;  
two ball bearings provided on both ends of a shaft hole of the pulley body; and  
a hub for supporting the two ball bearings;

wherein at least one spring holder is provided on the hub, at least one friction spring is engaged with the spring holder; one end of the friction spring is inserted to the spring holder; another end of the friction spring forms a free end spirally extending along an axial direction of the hub; the outer ring of the friction spring is in contact with an inner wall of the pulley body; and  
wherein a damping groove corresponding to the friction spring is provided on the inner wall of the pulley body.

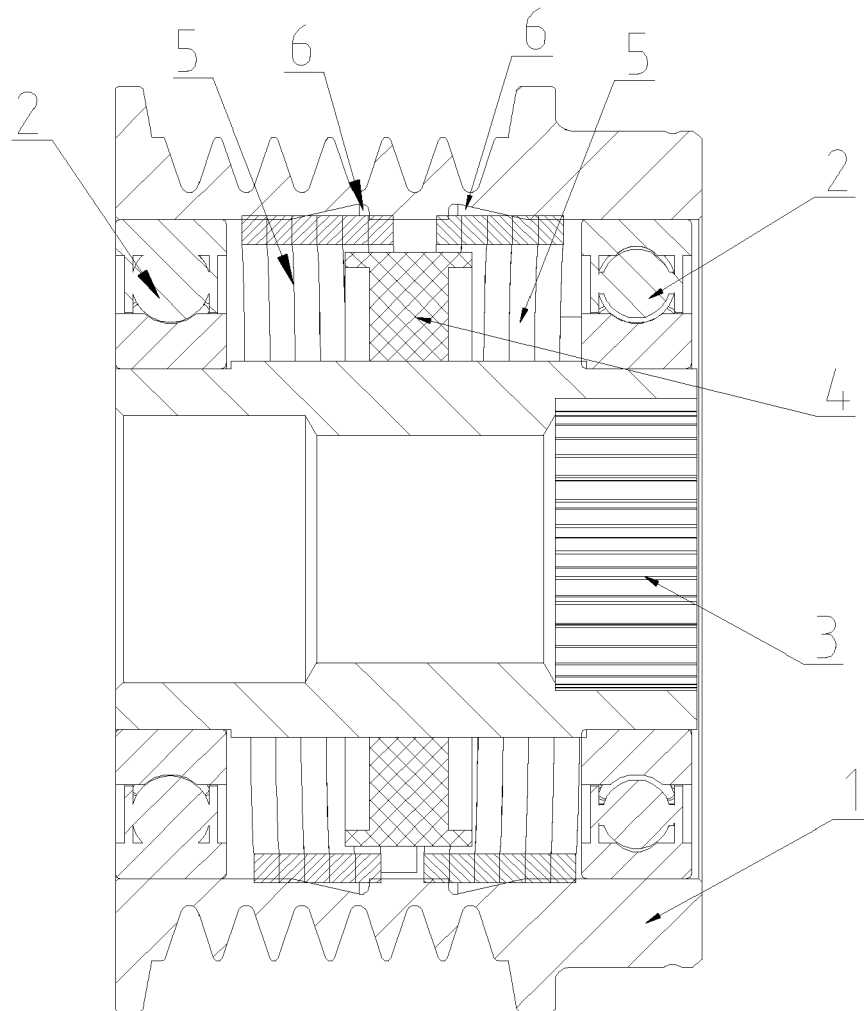
2. The overrunning alternator damping pulley of claim 1, wherein the damping groove is in an annular

shape, the damping groove has a variable width according to a damping requirement.

3. The overrunning alternator damping pulley of claim 2, wherein the damping groove is provided near an end portion of the spring holder.
4. The overrunning alternator damping pulley of claim 1, wherein the spring holder has an arc groove, one end of the friction spring which connects to the spring holder is clamped in the arc groove.
5. The overrunning alternator damping pulley of claim 1, wherein two sides of the spring holder are inserted to two friction spring respectively, the two friction springs are concentrically set at the two sides of the spring holder with an opposite rotation direction.
6. The overrunning alternator damping pulley of claim 1, wherein a number of the spring holder is two and a number of the friction spring is two, two friction springs are opposite disposed in the spring holder correspondingly.
7. The overrunning alternator damping pulley of claim 1, wherein two locking blocks are set on an opposite sides of the hub respectively; two locking grooves corresponding to the two locking blocks are set in the spring holder, the locking blocks are locked in the locking grooves.
8. The overrunning alternator damping pulley of claim 6, wherein the locking blocks are located in a middle of the hub.
9. The overrunning alternator damping pulley of claim 2, wherein the spring holder and the hub are integrated.



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**

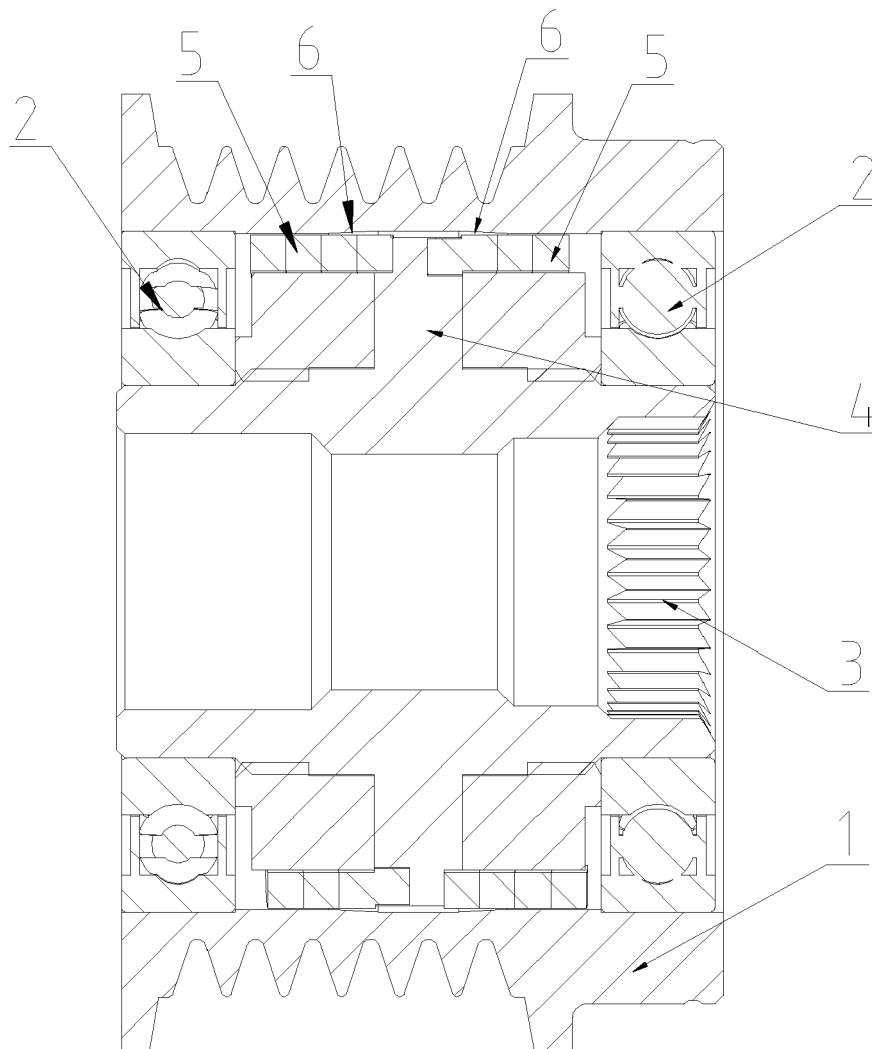
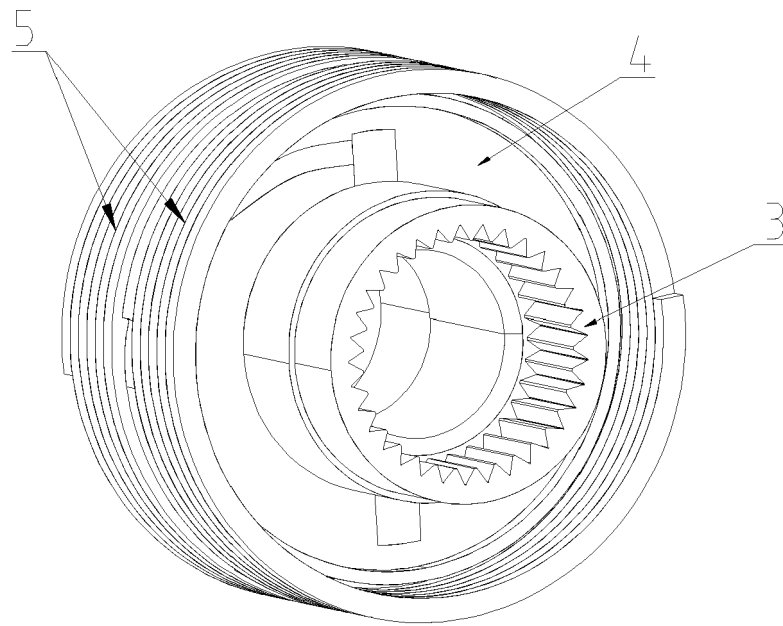
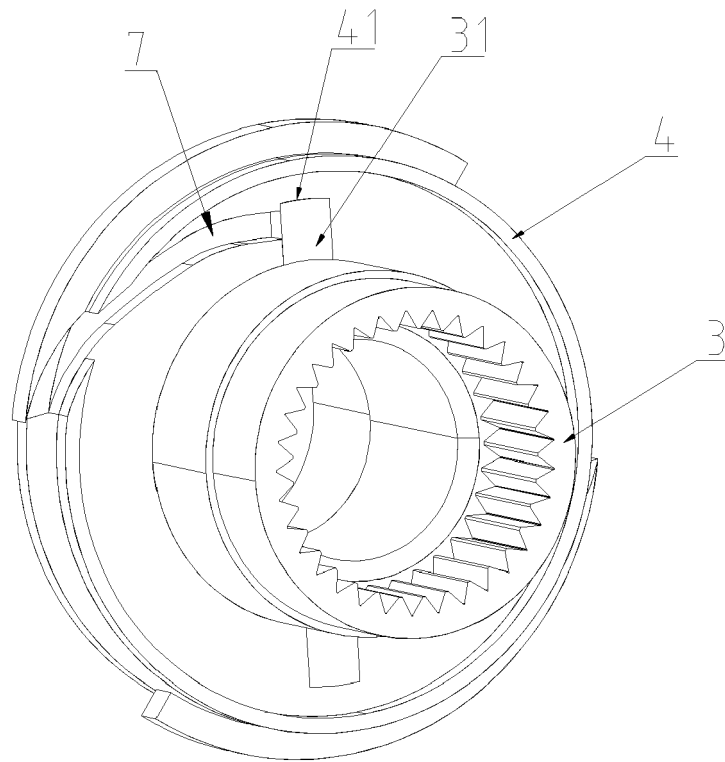


Figure 3



**Figure 4**





**Figure 5**



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